

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of controlling a seed disease comprising  
the steps of:

sterilizing seeds by at least one of a physical technique  
and a chemical technique; and

treating the thus sterilized seeds by an effective  
microorganism which is antagonistic against a pathogen of a  
seed borne disease.

2. The method of controlling the seed disease according  
to claim 1, wherein said effective microorganism is a plurality  
of types of microorganisms.

3. The method of controlling the seed disease according  
to claim 2, wherein at least one type of said effective  
microorganisms is a bacterium belonging to the genus Pantoea  
which is antagonistic against a pathogenic bacterium belonging  
to the genus Xanthomonas.

4. The method of controlling the seed disease according  
to claim 2, wherein at least one type of said effective  
microorganisms is a bacterium belonging to the genus Leclercia  
which is antagonistic against a pathogenic bacterium belonging  
to the genus Xanthomonas.

5. The method of controlling the seed disease according  
to claim 1, wherein at least one type of said effective  
microorganisms is a microorganism separated from seeds which  
have been obtained by seed production.

6. The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 1, wherein the seeds to be treated are those which have been contaminated with the pathogen of the seed borne disease.

7. The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 1, wherein the thus treated seeds are those belonging to a family selected from the group consisting of the family Brassicaceae, the family Umbelliferae, the family Solanaceae, the family Cucurbitaceae, the family Compositae, the family Liliaceae, the family Chenopodiaceae and the family Leguminosae.

8. The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 1, wherein said physical technique is a dry-heating treatment or a warm-water treatment.

9. The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 1, wherein said chemical technique is a treatment selected from the group consisting of a soaking treatment, a powder-coating treatment, and a coating treatment, and wherein all three treatments are performed using a synthetic agrochemical.

10. The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 1, wherein a treatment by said effective microorganism is performed such that the seeds are soaked in an aqueous dispersion of the effective microorganism.

11. The method of controlling the seed disease

according to claim 1, wherein a treatment by said effective microorganism is performed such that the seeds are pelleted by a coating material containing the effective microorganism.

12. The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 1, wherein a treatment by said effective microorganism is performed such that the seeds are film-coated by a coating solution containing the effective microorganism.

13. The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 1, wherein a treatment by said effective microorganism is performed such that the seeds are allowed to absorb water by contacting a carrier impregnated with an aqueous dispersion of the effective microorganism.

14. Seeds a disease of which has been controlled by the method according to claim 1.